

# Auburn Snow Removal FAQ

## **Q. Sometimes the streets don't get plowed until I'm on the way to work! Why is that?**

The City operates three work shifts from December through March in anticipation of severe weather.

According to the Snow Removal Policy the Public Works shift foreman determines when snow and ice removal operations begin. The criterion for that decision includes the following:

- Snow accumulations of approximately 2 to 4 inches or more;
- Drifting snow that causes problems for travel;
- Icy road conditions; and
- Actual time of the snowfall in relationship to street usage.

Snow and ice removal operations will continue until all roads are passable.

## **Q. I live on a nice quiet dead end street on the east side of the city and my street is always the last to be plowed. Why is that?**

The City of Auburn maintains approximately 108 miles of roadway. These roads or streets have been classified based on function, traffic volume and importance to the welfare of the entire community. Thirteen specific plow routes have been developed.

Each of the routes has streets with a priority importance factor attached ranging from Priority 1 to Priority 3. Streets classified as Priority 1 will be plowed first. Priority 3 streets are low volume residential streets.

**Priority 1** These are high volume routes that connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services. These will be plowed first.

**Priority 2** These streets are those that provide access to schools and commercial businesses.

**Priority 3** Streets are low volume residential streets.

For operating efficiency some lower priority streets may be completed before higher priority streets when equipment is in the area rather than returning later to do the lower priority street.

**Q. It seems like every time I shovel my driveway, a plow comes by and buries it in snow again. Can't that be stopped?**

This is one of the biggest problems with snow plowed from city streets. Our operators make every attempt to minimize the amount of snow put back into driveways. However, due to the inherent design of plow equipment, the amount of snow left at the end of the driveways can be significant. We are aware of this, unfortunately it is unavoidable. In the event of a medical or fire emergency the city will do everything possible to help.